

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur, Chairwoman McCollum, Ranking Member Simpson, and Ranking Member Joyce:

We write to express our strong support for methane mitigation funding, including research and development and deployment of these critical technologies, across the federal government. We would like to request highest possible funding for the relevant accounts in the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Energy and Water and Interior, Environment, and Related agencies Appropriations bills. Additionally, we urge including language that would prohibit rolling back critical methane standards.

Reducing methane emissions frequently enjoys support from industry and environmentalists as doing so is cost-effective and reduces the long-term threat of climate change. This commonsense effort is absolutely vital to advancing our energy economy in a sustainable way. Scientists have studied methane emissions for decades and continue updating estimates as to the energy industry's contributions. Industry leaders, scientists, environmental organizations, and Representatives on both sides of the aisle agree: we need to invest more in mitigating these harmful emissions.

Within the Department of Energy's Fossil Research and Development Account, this includes the Emissions Mitigation from Midstream Infrastructure Research and Development Program and the Emissions Quantification from Natural Gas Infrastructure programs. Though the Administration's budget request proposes eliminating both, we urge your committee to reject this proposal and instead support highest possible funding. The Emissions Mitigation program seeks to develop new methods, technologies, and research into limiting emissions from natural gas pipeline and storage infrastructure. This could include research into new and novel approaches to methane sensors, new leak detection systems, early detection techniques or technologies for factors leading to unintended releases, or equipment features and upgrades to prevent methane releases. The Emissions quantification program aims to help accurately determine the extent and source of these emissions. This type of research is especially important as the energy industry, scientists, and Congress grapples with a range of estimates as to methane emissions estimates. Both are essential to the long-term sustainability of the domestic energy sector and reducing its environmental impact.

We also urge the Committee to include highest possible funding levels for Clean Air Programs aimed at reducing methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry. This includes funding for EPA's clean air programs in the Environment & Management account, Science & Technology account, and support for grants to

state air agencies within the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that benefit methane mitigation work across the country. Limiting methane emissions requires a multi-department and cooperative approach across the Federal and State governments and this critical funding facilitates that approach.

Lastly, it is vital we continue making progress on mitigating and controlling methane emissions. Accordingly, we would urge the committee to include the following language:

“No funds in the underlying bill may be used to advance or implement the Administration’s proposed rule “Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review” (84 FR 50244).”

We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to improve the sustainability of our nation’s energy sector. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on this commonsense issue.

Sincerely,



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



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Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Lloyd Doggett  
Jan Schakowsky  
Steven Horsford  
Dwight Evans  
Diana DeGette  
Peter DeFazio  
Matt Gaetz  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Lucy McBath  
Stephen Lynch  
Scott Peters  
Tony Cárdenas  
André Carson  
Abigail D. Spanberger  
Jimmy Panetta